

To the Joint Judiciary Committee Members In regard to HB6566 and SB953

My name is Kurt Gubrud. I live in Sharon Connecticut where I have operated a small horticultural and integrated pest management firm since 1984. I control pests using the least toxic methods available. These are usually organic or biological or mechanical measures. I am also an Herbalist who studied alternate medicine and self medicated for years when I could not afford health insurance.

I can tell you that the entire Cannabis family from Industrial Hemp to the psychoactive varieties of Sativa, Indica, and Ruderalis are tremendously valuable to human physical and mental health. Food fuel fiber high quality protein and Omega3,6,9 fatty acids. The psychoactive strains are highly variable in their mode of action making the versatility of treatments amazing! It would be irresponsible to the people of the great State of Connecticut not to put this invaluable tool into the hands of the States' medical community.

We should create the infrastructure to fairly and cost effectively license and distribute safe organic Cannabis products in a manner like the Coloradoans have done. If the state fails to do so we will be surrounded by more progressive states and their dispensaries will attract Connecticut patients. The rights of small independent growers should also be addressed as the right of the individual to grow a few plants for private use.

In all my years of being acquainted with Hemp and Maryjane I can tell you there are no nasty side effects except getting arrested. I have gone through the criminal justice system because of this harmless plant and seen prohibition ruin lives. Homes have been lost and, remortgaged, life savings spent and families broken apart. I hope that the people of the state who are presently incarcerated because of simple possession will be given amnesty when this series of bills pass and are signed into law by the Governor.

*Thankyou, Kurt Gubrud*